

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear Not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1, 1866.

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## DEATH TOLL OF TORNADO

Twenty-Nine Killed and Forty-Three Injured at Oconee

### HEROIC TEACHERS SAVE THREE PUPILS

Woman and Baby Killed Near Augusta by Offshoot of Tornado

Oconee, Feb. 11.—It was definitely established today that one white boy, and twenty-eight negroes were killed in the tornado yesterday. Far as known twenty-three persons, chiefly negroes, were injured. Seventy-five houses occupied by negroes were among the structures destroyed. Three women teachers probably saved the lives of many white children in the school here. One end of the building crumpled and the other end of the roof hung low above the heads of seventy-five pupils. By main strength the teachers held up the sagging roof with their hands until all the children had passed out and then leaped to safety themselves.

A negro woman and her baby were killed on a farm near Edie, eighteen miles from Augusta, when the high wind blew down the house. It is believed this disturbance was an offshoot of the tornado, which struck here.

Oconee, Ga., Feb. 11.—The death toll of yesterday's tornado which destroyed the Gardner settlement near here remained today at about 30. Many of the dead have been sent to nearby points and scores of the injured are in the hospitals at Tennille and Sandersville and there is no way of obtaining accurate information as to the exact number. The list of fatalities stood at two whites and more than a score of negroes. But a number of the injured, chiefly negroes, are expected to die.

Later reports bring a list of injured to forty-four, which included six white persons, three men, two women and one small girl.

## SEASE IMPOSES HEAVY PENALTIES

Fine of Thousand Dollars or Year for Violating Prohibition Law

Anderson, Feb. 11.—Judge Sease is still handing out sentences to violators of the law.

Lee Guest, a white man, was fined \$1,000 yesterday for violating the prohibition laws. Guest was caught with 73 gallons of whiskey. The case was tried in the absence of the defendant, and a new trial was granted. On the new verdict of guilty the court imposed a sentence of one year in prison or a fine of \$1,000. The case will be appealed, and bond in the sum of \$2,000 given pending the appeal. Besides this the automobile of Guest was confiscated, which was worth about \$1,400.

James Armstrong, negro, on evidence as to selling whiskey, was given six months and \$500, to be suspended on payment of \$75 or service of two months.

## NEGRO WOMEN DEMAND BALLOT

Petition For Investigation of Disfranchisement

Washington, Feb. 12.—Negro women of twenty states, meeting here today, presented to the national women's party a request that it urge congress to investigate the alleged disfranchisement of negro women in the south at the last general election.

## AMERICAN SAILORS FIRED UPON

Tokio, Feb. 11.—Five American bluejackets were fired on by unknown persons in Vladivostok at 11 o'clock Tuesday night, one of them being wounded, says the Asahi Shimbun's Vladivostok correspondent today.

The Americans, reinforced by Russian policemen, arrested three Russian officers formerly under the late Gen. Kappel, once commander of the western armies of the Omsk government, the correspondent adds.

The impression in Vladivostok, according to the correspondent, is that the attack was arranged by communists with the object of estranging relations between Japan and the United States.

### Refuses to Comment.

Washington, Feb. 11.—The attack on five American bluejackets at Vladivostok Tuesday night, as announced by the Asahi Shimbun of Tokyo had not been reported tonight to any department. In the absence of an official report department refused to comment.

Jan. 21.—Switzerland last alcoholic drinks valued at 10 francs, which sum the government, M. Musy, says to pay the export tax and local government.

## EXPLANATION OF APPROPRIATION

Belser of Sumter Writes Open Letter

GIVES PEOPLE FACTS

Member of Ways and Means Committee Asks 'Does Not State Want to Go Backward'

Columbia, Feb. 12.—Representative R. B. Belser of Sumter, a member of the ways and means committee of the lower house, has addressed an open letter to the people of South Carolina on the tax question and the appropriation bill with special reference to the task that confronted the ways and means committee. Mr. Belser's letter conveys the sentiment of a large number of the members of the committee. The letter follows:

"To the People of South Carolina:

"In view of the general cry for a reduction in taxes, and in justice to the ways and means committee, and to the legislative body which has this difficult problem to wrestle with, I think that it is desirable that the people of the state be given an insight into the problem so that they may be able to form an intelligent opinion of their own.

"It must be realized that the members of the ways and means committee and of the house and senate are just as anxious to see a reduction of taxes as is the general body of taxpayers, but that this body is in possession of a great deal of information which is not accessible to the people as a whole.

"At first thought it might seem that the appropriation for the year 1919, which was \$4,102,000, would be ample to cover the expenditures necessary in 1921, but we are immediately confronted with the fact that 1920 was the first year the budget system was applied to state appropriations and that nearly \$1,000,000, which before that time never went into the state treasury, was required by the budget law to be turned into the state treasury and reappropriated.

"That meantime the activities of the state board of health have been materially increased; that the expenditures for state aid to common school education, in response to the popular demand, have increased from \$704,000 in 1919 to \$1,567,000 in 1921—an increase of \$863,000 (this item alone accounting for more than half of the total increase in the last two years); that the pension appropriations have increased from \$230,000 to \$607,000; that the expenditures of the state highway commission, formerly paid direct from the auto licenses, are now carried in the appropriation bill, and that the necessary increased expenditures of the state colleges, incident to growth in the number of students and the normal growth of other public service, account for the balance of the increase.

"If we group the 1921 appropriations, we will find that the amounts appropriated for public school aid, for the state hospital and for confederate pensions aggregate \$3,000,000; that the appropriations for state colleges are a little less than \$1,500,000; that the items in the state treasurer's office covering salaries and interest on bonded debt, \$258,000; the legislative department, \$103,000; the judicial department, \$157,000, and a number of similar state departments, where salaries and expenses are fixed by statute, are not subject to material reduction.

"It must be remembered that within the last two or three years the state has established by statute a number of new activities and enlarged existing activities, and that these can not well be discontinued without allowing buildings and equipment to lie unused, but have to be provided for in the appropriation bill as long as the statutes establishing them continue in force.

"It must be borne in mind that the budget commission and the ways and means committee were confronted with the task of reducing the request of institutions and departments supported by the state, aggregating \$9,897,000, which the officers and authorities in charge of these institutions thought were needed for efficient operation of their respective departments, and that these requests had to be considered item by item in arriving at the final bill; that the reductions in the requests of the departments and institutions aggregate nearly \$3,500,000, leaving many of the departments and institutions seriously handicapped under the appropriations as carried in the bill recommended by the ways and means committee.

"The people of the state have said in unmistakable terms that they do not wish the funds appropriated for the common schools reduced, nor do I believe, that they wish the Confederate pension fund or the appropriations necessary to maintain the South Carolina State hospital further reduced.

"A large portion of the apparent increase in the appropriations for colleges in the last few years is due to the inclusion in the appropriation bill of the tuition fees and other college receipts heretofore used direct by the colleges, but now turned into the state treasury. In this connection I want to call the attention of the people of the state to the fact that while the state appropriation bill only carries \$1,566,000 for com-

## OFFICER TRIED THREE TIMES

William C. Hall Released After Three Mistrials on Murder Charge

Manassas, Va., Feb. 12.—William C. Hall, former state prohibition inspector, was freed by the court here today, after a third disagreement by the jury in his case, growing out of the killing of Lawrence Hudson, an alleged whiskey runner near Winchester two years ago. The case went to the jury yesterday afternoon and the jury reported this morning that it was unable to reach a verdict. On motion of the state Judge Brent dismissed the case against Hall.

## JUDGE LANDIS BASEBALL ARBITER

Has Not Violated Law, Says Palmer

Washington, Feb. 11.—Federal Judge Landis of Chicago was within the law when he accepted the office of supreme baseball arbitrator while still serving on the bench, Attorney General Palmer declared today in a letter to Representative Welby, Democrat of Ohio, who had questioned the judge's right to hold both positions.

On the strength of this opinion, Mr. Welby introduced a bill making it unlawful for any judge to receive compensation for exercising the duties of an arbitrator, commissioner or officer of any corporation.

Mr. Welby announced that if he could not persuade the house rules committee to give the bill a privileged status immediately he would call it up on the floor.

After examining the question raised by Mr. Welby, who insisted that Judge Landis could not properly accept \$42,000 a year as baseball arbitrator, the attorney general said such acceptance was "not a crime, neither misdemeanor nor felony."

"While it might be true," Mr. Palmer said, "that the judge's duty as arbitrator would take so much of his time as to interfere substantially with the performance of his official duties, this, of course, would be a matter to be disposed of when such interference has actually occurred and probably would be an objection on the ground of incompetency and considered upon that ground alone."

Cork, Feb. 12.—One soldier was killed, and a number of others were wounded today in an attack on a passenger train outside of the Mill street station here by a hundred armed men. The attackers fired on the cars, which contained thirty soldiers, from both sides of the track.

Common school education, that for this purpose there is about \$6,500,000 raised by local taxation, and that the expenditures in the state for common school education in 1921 will be more than \$8,000,000, and only \$1,000,000 for the colleges.

"The local levies for school, county and city purposes have really been increased a great deal more than the state appropriations, and it is principally on account of the increase of these local levies that taxes have grown so burdensome in the last few years. It is only going to be possible to afford material relief from the present burden on the property, in the channels of taxation, by devising supplemental methods of raising revenue as is being done in almost every other state in the union. The legislature is now working on this phase of the problem and while it is not possible to perfect these measures at the 1921 session, we hope to get them in form for passage at the 1922 session of the present legislative body.

"In conclusion I wish to call attention to the fact that exclusive of the increase in the appropriation for the state aid for public schools, that appropriations for other departments and institutions of the state government are less than in 1920. The 1920 appropriations provided for enlarged activities included by statutes passed in 1919 and 1920 which had not been in effect, or which had been in effect only to a limited extent prior to that year."

"In the last analysis it all goes back to a policy as to public service. If the public service of the state is to increase, which I believe to be in the interest of the vast majority of the people of the state, appropriations can not go backwards. The public service provided by the state is primarily in the interest of the poorer people of the state, and in a large measure property owners, railroads and corporations bear the bulk of the taxes which provide the revenue to give the public service. On the other hand this latter class are benefited by the increased prosperity and welfare of the people as a whole. To restrict the appropriations means to restrict the public service which is provided to promote the public welfare. Do the people of the state wish to take the latter course?"

R. B. Belser, "Member Ways and Means Committee."

## LEGISLATURE NEARING END

Members of Both Houses Trying to Finish Work This Week

Columbia, Feb. 14.—Both branches of the legislature convene Monday night for what should be the last week of the legislative session, but which will likely not be the last, due to the fact that many important matters, including the appropriation bill, have yet to be passed on. The appropriation bill is in the hands of the finance committee of the senate, and after that committee finishes consideration of it, it will have to go through the saunter of three readings in the senate, and then go to free conference committee to have the kinks smoothed out of it. In addition to this bill there are county supply bills, the county officers' bill, and many other important matters yet on the calendars.

Both branches of the assembly will probably have evening sessions all the week, in an effort to clear the decks as rapidly as possible. There are prospects of interesting legislative fights all the week through.

One of the "special orders" pending in the senate is the bill to abolish the state tax commission, with an amendment to abolish all state commissions created since 1915.

There is also pending the bill to require a high license of tobacco warehouses handling ungraded and untaxed tobacco. This is of special interest to the Pee Dee section of the state.

There are several bills on the house calendar of unusual importance, principally measures pertaining to state finances. The state income tax bill has to be voted on. The bill to create a state inheritance tax is on the calendar, as is the bill to provide a system of business licenses, and a bill providing a tax on gasoline and lubricating oils.

The senate is in the midst of a debate, adjourned to Tuesday night, on the pension bill. This provides for transfer of the pension system from the state pension commission to the comptroller general, with all needy veterans put on the rolls, the money to be distributed by the comptroller general among the counties in proportion to their pension rolls, the classifications to be made by the county boards.

Still another important measure to be disposed of by the senate this week is the 48-hour week for cotton mills. The committee on commerce and manufactures has reported the measure unfavorably.

In the house there are two measures with committees, to be reported back this week, which will precipitate debate. One is the bill to abolish the attendance officer under the compulsory school attendance law. This has been referred to the committee on education and ways and means, jointly. The other bill is that giving the public service commission power to supervise rates and service given by public utility companies. The ways and means committee will report this bill back Tuesday it is said, with a per diem rate of pay for the members of the commission.

## ASSOCIATE JUSTICE GAGE DEAD

Passes Away at Home in Chester After Month's Illness

Chester, Feb. 13.—Associate Justice George William Gage of the supreme court of South Carolina died at his home in Chester on York street this afternoon at 6 o'clock, after an illness of four weeks. Judge Gage has been seriously ill for several days, but yesterday he appeared brighter and had a good night, and his family entertained hope for his recovery. However, this afternoon he became desperately ill and expired within a short time.

## GEORGIA NEGRO POISONS NEPHEW

Jury Convicts Man Made Beneficiary of Insurance Policies

Macon, Ga., Feb. 13.—M. C. Mitchell negro druggist, was found guilty of poisoning his nephew, Henry S. Mitchell, ex-service man, by a jury in superior court tonight. The jury recommended Mitchell to the mercy of the court. The Georgia law fixes life imprisonment for such cases, and Judge H. A. Mathews announced that he would impose sentence tomorrow.

The state showed that there was \$24,000 insurance carried on the life of the young negro, \$10,000 of which was with the war risk bureau, and policies, M. C. Mitchell was the beneficiary.

Irregularities in the death and burial certificates aroused suspicion, and government agents investigating the case obtained an order for the exhumation of the body. Chemists then conducted an examination, finding 15 to 20 grains of deadly poison as was testified to in court. Lawyers for Mitchell announced tonight that they would file a motion for appeal in a few days.

Mitchell showed no emotion when the verdict of the jury was announced.

## DIAL MOVES AGAINST LANDIS

Federal Judge Faces Impeachment Before Department of Justice

Washington, Feb. 14.—Representative Welby, of Ohio, refused today to grant the request of Senator Dial, of South Carolina, that he include in his proposed impeachment proceedings against Federal Judge Landis the statement attributed to Judge Landis that officials of an Illinois bank were responsible for an embezzlement by a clerk of the bank because they paid the clerk only \$90 per month. Welby said he would confine himself to the question of Judge Landis serving as supreme arbiter of baseball while holding a federal office. Senator Dial announced that besides seeking the impeachment brought against Judge Landis he would prefer charges against him with the department of justice in connection with the bank case.

## TEACHERS WANT TRUANT WORKERS

Will Petition Legislature to Enforce Attendance

Columbia, Feb. 13.—The Richland County Teachers' association meeting yesterday at the Columbia high school drew up a resolution petitioning the general assembly not to repeal the compulsory attendance law or in any manner whatever lessen its powers and functions. The resolution was drawn up by J. B. O'Neal, principal of the Olympia graded school, and he, Mrs. J. M. Denny and Mrs. E. B. Wallace, were appointed a committee to appear before the legislature regarding truant officers, asking that they be retained.

Claude N. Sapp and C. T. Smith, representatives from Richland county, made talks along this line. Mr. Sapp spoke of the need of the truant law, the low salaries of teachers, and Mr. Smith spoke of the possibility of keeping the truant officers on duty if the legislature were petitioned.

Miss Mildred Tillinghast spoke of school community organization and announced that those who wanted to enter for prizes must do so before March 1. Miss Agnes McMaster spoke in behalf of the Hittaway commission, urging all teachers to take an interest in the work of teaching people to read and write. An enjoyable reading was also given by Mrs. E. L. Rabb.

At the close of the meeting each of the departments went into private session. The high school department discussed the qualifications of pupils to enter high school. The intermediate department had a reading by L. T. Baker. The one and two school teachers listened to a presentation by D. L. Lewis, state school supervisor, of the observations of country school conditions, urging longer sessions. E. B. Wallace discussed South Carolina history and showed maps drawn by Frank Lawson, Auburn Woods, Veda Miller and Bernice Edgar, all school children. The primary department had the teaching of citizenship by means of playground activities.

## ELECTION OF GAGE'S SUCCESSOR

Legislature Will Probably Fix Date To-morrow—Probable Candidates

Columbia, Feb. 14.—The present general assembly will in all probability elect the successor to the late Associate Justice George W. Gage, who died in Chester Sunday night. It is probable that a resolution will be introduced in the legislature Tuesday night or Wednesday setting the date for the election. It is probable, however, that some of the men who were nominated for the vacancy caused by Justice Gage's death in January will be nominated for the seat now vacant. Among these candidates were Judge Thos. S. Sease, of Spartanburg, Judge H. W. McManis, of Charleston, Judge H. E. Rice of Aiken, and Jesse T. Carter of Bamberg. Another election that is scheduled for the present General Assembly but which has so far been overlooked is that of code commissioner. The ten year term of office expires this year and it is filed by the legislature. The present commissioner is J. C. McChure, of Chester.

Friends of Circuit Judge Hayne E. Rice, of Aiken, today presented his name as candidate for the associate justiceship to succeed the late Justice Gage. Judge Rice is fifty-five years of age. It is understood the new justice will be elected this week.

## BALL PLAYERS DENY CONFESSIONS

Chicago, Feb. 14.—Formal repudiations of alleged grand jury confessions of crooked baseball playing were filed in the criminal court today in behalf of Williams and Jackson. The petition filed in behalf of Williams, Jackson and Weaver declares that none of the three ever made admission charged against the first two and deny that they ever threw ball games or conspired to do so. Weaver did not appear before the grand jury and has from the first denied taking part in a alleged conspiracy.

## FORECAST OF INAUGURAL

Harding Will Make Plea For Peace and Good Will

St. Augustine, Feb. 14.—A plea that the nation forget animosities and partisanship of the after war period and put the shoulder to the wheel of reconstruction is expected to be the keynote of Harding's inaugural address, although the address is still far from complete, it was learned today. Considerable work has been done toward its preparation and the subjects it will cover are virtually selected. It is understood it will be brief and will attempt no detailed discussion of any of the problems awaiting solution.

One outstanding feature is expected to be an appeal for confidence in the nation's business stability, linked with the assurance that during next four years the administration will keep away from meddling methods in its relations with the business world. A detailed statement of his taxation policy will be reserved until congress is called into special session in April.

## MISRULE AND OPPRESSION IN CHINA

Populace Being Exterminated by Uncontrolled Soldiery

Hankow, China, Jan. 10.—Appalling stories of a populace oppressed to the point of extermination by an uncontrolled soldiery have been coming to Hallow for weeks from the upper reaches of the Yangtze river. The reports are principally from missionary sources. The people in the western part of Hupch province, these advisers say, have been reduced to the direst straits by troops who demand tribute, levy taxes, seize and occupy homes and shops and live on the land without restraint and those under the yoke have no possible channel open to them to voice their grievances.

Shihnan and adjoining districts in the western part of the province are said to be wholly under the domination of the soldiers. The area is not far distant from the Yangtze transshipment port of Ichang which was seized and looted by mutinous troops in December. In ordinary times it is secluded from the rest of China with little or no communication with the other provinces due to the utter lack of routes of transportation over the rugged heights.

It was in the early month of 1918 as a development in the strife between north and south that the soldiers appeared here under the name of the "Pacifying Nation Troops" of Hupch. These troops brought disaster.

Recently by reason of differences these forces have had with the Szechuen troops the source of salt supply for the district has been cut. For weeks, say the reports, it was impossible to obtain salt at any price with the result that the plague appeared among soldiers and people alike. Here is a quotation from one letter to the American Church Mission at Hankow.

"In one home the soldiers became enraged at the family's lack of respect for them. One day the soldiers, who board without paying, threw the food of the household to their horses. The needy family could not smother its protests, for starvation was then upon them. The soldiers then promptly called out the eldest son and hanged him. His wife immediately committed suicide and the old mother then killed herself."

## AUTO TAX DODGERS

Columbia, Feb. 14.—Forty thousand automobiles in South Carolina have not as yet been licensed for 1921 and forty thousand South Carolina motorists are liable to the law in South Carolina for operating cars without current licenses. The state highway department reports that only slightly over half of the cars of the state have so far secured their licenses for this year.

Up to today the total amount of license money collected by the highway department, through the motor vehicle license division, had reached \$546,558, which is not far from the entire amount of license money collected during all of last year. Last year's automobile license money totaled \$578,868. The large proportionate increase in the license collections is due to the fact that motor vehicles are licensed under a different scale this year, the average being higher than last year.

The highway department ordered 147,000 licenses for 1921. With dealers and individual motor vehicle licenses and also "transfers" and new cars purchased, the number will all be issued by the end of the year, it is expected.

## DAKOTA BANK FAILS

Scandinavian American Bank of Fargo Closed by Bank Examiner

Fargo, N. D., Feb. 14.—The Scandinavian-American bank of Fargo failed to open for business today. The bank was closed by order of the state bank examiner.